LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH 3/8/20

Mother Jesus

In the name…

Lt us pray…

Leslie Hash Jarret and David gave birth again Saturday Morning. At a birth the mother is front and center. I don’t know about the rest of you men out there, but I am okay with that. The second birth Jesus is talking about is not like that. Jesus is front and center in a mother like way. Mother Jesus.

Let’s see how I can say that. Nicodemus comes up to Jesus in the darkness. He had to. He could not let anyone know what he was doing.

Nicodemus has seen the sign at least the changing water into wine so there must have been others not written down. So in order for Jesus to do them Nicodemus tells Jesus He must have the presence of God in Him.

Jesus takes a big leap here, Nicodemus does not talk about seeing the kingdom of God, but Jesus says no one can see the kingdom without being born from above. When Nicodemus shows he does not understand, “How can anyone be born after having grown old.” Jesus obviously knew about what that meant, it was not about physically being born again. But He takes it further. It is about being born from above.

Nicodemus’ notion of being born again is just what he knew. The only way to be born is through a mother and that means going back into a mother’s womb. Jesus says being born again means being born from above.

So we talk about two instances when someone is born. The physical birth and then the second birth, our baptisms but Jesus was not telling Nicodemus about that because He was trying to keep it simple. The mothering in Him wanted to give Nicodemus the best opportunity for life possible which means more than physical birth, but spiritual birth.

And is that not true in a way of our mothers, they are front and center at our births and they are front and center in all our rebirths. If they ended their mother’s responsibilities at birth, we would be lost. For the first year plus of our lives we are dependent upon them, physically. We are born of the flesh and they take care of our flesh. Mother Jesus says we needs to be born of the spirit and that comes from above, shown visibly at our baptisms born of the spirit but our being born of the spirit does not end at our baptisms, but it is a daily being born from above.

Martin Luther tells us that we should begin our days with the sign of the cross and end it in the same way. But what about in between. We have now approximately 13 daylight hours and more waking hours in which we are living as if we are born from above.

Yesterday the Raleigh Islamic association invited the public to their center, one take away among many was the Iman describing the 5 times a day they pause for prayer. And in this time of concern for keeping the corona virus at bay he told how one can tell if someone is a Muslim. If you go into a public restroom and it is time for prayer it would be the person who is not only washing their hands but their feet as well.

Mother Jesus gives us a little leaway in that. Right after He says we are to be born from above, He says “The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. We know it may not be “convenient” to pray five times a day, but we need to be listening for when the spirit comes to us. We need to catch that wind we might even call that Mother wind.

This year we ae celebrating the 100th anniversary of womens suffrage. During the time women were working to gain the vote most were mothers as well thus working not just for themselves but for their children. Often in Scripture we are told Jesus walked about the countryside healing and teaching as He mothered, no I did not say smothered, but mothered, His disciples, and others who followed Him and His secret followers like Nicodemus.

This week much as been said about Katherine Johnson one of the pioneer human computers for NASA and its space program. She and others played an incredibly important role in NASA’s success, while she was doing that she was also a mother, she had three daughters.

While Jesus was pointing toward His eventual death and resurrection, He would often take on the role of Mother wrapping His loving arms around the physical flesh bringing the Spirit from above to those He encountered. I call it a teachable moment.

That is what happens with Nicodemus and boy does Jesus give Him a lesson. He is taking him from thinking earthly to thinking heavenly. He is not putting Nicodemus down when He says he did not believe in earthly things, he is merely saying that some things about this world we know here are difficult, and if that is the case, then how much more so are heavenly things. But don’t worry despite your deficiencies, Nicodemus, all you need is belief. And why is that because God’s love is so big. He’s got you covered eternally, your life with God will be eternal.

Oh, and Nicodemus, if you think it is just for people like you, former Jews, now My followers, that is not the case, I have come so that the WORLD might be saved.

In the name…